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Message Text

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S E C R E T STATE 118918

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR
SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. BREZHNEV GESTURES TOWARD FRANCE

EMBASSY PARIS REPORTS THAT BREZHNEV' S VISIT TO FRANCE AFTER LEAVING WASHINGTON IS CONSIDERED IN PARIS TO BE A " GESTURE" TOWARD FRANCE, AND WESTERN EUROPE IN GENERAL. THE VISIT IS AIMED AT UNDERMINING ALLEGATIONS OF US- SOVIET COLLUSION AND WILL REAFFIRM THE FRENCH-SOVIET SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP. (CONFIDE4 TIAL) PARIS 16784, 6/18.

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2. FRANCE STILL RESISTS ATLANTIC RELATIONS COMMUNIQUE

EMBASSY PARIS REPORTS THAT THE FRENCH REMAIN UN-
CONVINCED OF THE NEED FOR A " YEAR OF EUROPE," BUT CON-
TINUE TO BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE QUESTION. THE
FRENCH REALIZE THEY HAVE MADE A CONCESSION IN AGREEING
TO AN ALLIANCE EXAMINATION OF THE ATLANTIC RELATIONSHIP.
PRESS REPORTS NOTWITHSTANDING, HOWEVER, THIS EXAMINATION
SHOULD BE AN END IN ITSELF AND NOT LEAD TO ANY ALLIANCE
SPONSORED " DOCUMENT" OR TO ANY GENERAL STATEMENT OF
ATLANTIC PRINCIPLES. (SECRET) PARIS 16782, 6/18
(LIMDIS).

3. VIETNAM CEASE- FIRE: PIECE OF PAPER OR LASTING PEACE?

EMBASSY SAIGON REPORTS THAT RELATIVE CALM RETURNED TO
SOUTH VIETNAM FOLLOWING THE NEW CEASE- FIRE. THE GOV-
ERNMENT IS APPARENTLY RELYING ON THE TPJMC FORUM TO
REACH AN EARLY AGREEMENT WITH THE COMMUNISTS ON
CARRYING OUT THE PARIS COMMUNIQUE. HOWEVER, FEW SOUTH
VIETNAMESE OBSERVERS ARE NOTICEABLY MORE HOPEFUL ABOUT
A LASTING PEACE. MOST SEE THE COMMUNIQUE AS ANOTHER
PIECE OF PAPER, AND SOME HAVE CRITICIZED THE US FOR
ALLEGEDLY FORCING SOUTH VIETNAM TO ACCEPT IT.
(CONFIDENTIAL) SAIGON 10882, 6/18.

4. VIETNAM: FOUR SLATES START THE UPPER HOUSE RACE

ONLY FOUR SLATES EMERGED JUNE 17 IN THE FIRST POSTING
FOR THE UPPER HOUSE ELECTION. EMBASSY SAIGON NOTES
THAT THE TWO STRONGEST ARE LINKED TO THE THIEU ADMIN-
ISTRATION, BUT THE PRESENCE OF FOUR HELPS ASSURE A
FORMALLY CONTESTED ELECTION. MORE INDEPENDENT AND
OPPOSITION FIGURES WERE EXPECTED TO RUN. IN THE
OPINION OF THE EMBASSY, THEY DID NOT DO SO BECAUSE
OF DEMOCRACY PARTY STRENGTH, OPPOSITION WEAKNESS, THE
SHORTNESS OF THE FILING DEADLINE, AND UNCERTAINTY ABOUT
SOUTH VIETNAM' S CONSTITUTIONAL STRENGTH. (CONFIDENTIAL)
SAIGON 10925, 6/18.

5. PROBLEMS FOR PERON
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EMBASSY BUENOS AIRES BELIEVES THAT ARGENTINA' S KEY
PROBLEM IS HOW TO CONTROL THE VARIOUS ELEMENTS WITHIN
THE PERONIST MOVEMENT. ONLY PERON CAN DO IT, AND
SHOULD HE PASS FROM THE SCENE BEFORE THE NEW GOVERNMENT
IS FIRMLY UNDERWAY, ARGENTINA WOULD BE OVERWHELMED 0 Y
THE CHALLENGES OF A STALLED ECONOMY, RAMPANT TERRORISM,

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RADICALIZED YOUTH, AND POTENTIAL MILITARY INTERVENTION IN THE POLITICAL ARENA. (CONFIDENTIAL) BUENOS AIRES 4292, 6/18.

6. INDOCHINA ACTIVITIES

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM-- A SLIGHT DECREASE FROM THE PREVIOUS TWO DAYS WAS NOTED IN CEASE- FIRE VIOLATIONS, WITH 15 MAJOR AND 70 MINOR VIOLATIONS REPORTED DURING THE PERIOD ENDING 2000 HOURS JUNE 18, EDT. (CONFIDENTIAL) USDAO SAIGON, OPREP-4, 6/18.

CAMBODIA-- ENEMY FORCES CONSOLIDATED POSITIONS ON ROUTE 5 AS FANK POSITIONS WERE FORCED TO WITHDRAW. GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO REOPEN ROUTE 4 CONTINUE. A CONVOY TRANSITED THE MEKONG RIVER TO PHNOM PENH. IT CAME UNDER ENEMY FIRE IN THE VICINITY OF BANAM, BUT SUFFERED ONLY LIGHT DAMAGE AND CASUALTIES. (SECRET) CAMBODIAN DAMSREP, 6/19. ROGERS

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